



USAID partners with Coca-Cola, government to provide water projects in Kano



U.S. Ambassador Ms. Robin Sanders (left) and Kano state first lady (second right), Hajia Amina Shekarau operating a borehole at Yelwa model primary school, Dala in Kano state

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USAID partners with Coca-Cola, government to provide community projects in Kano

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is partnering with the Coca-Cola Company and some Kano state government agencies to provide boreholes and modern toilets, and refurbish previously abandoned classrooms through the Water and Development Alliance (WADA) in six local government areas in the state. United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Ms. Robin Renee Sanders was in Kano recently to witness the commissioning of some of the infrastructures by the first lady of Kano state, Hajia Amina Shekarau, on June 5, 2008.

In her remarks at the commissioning of boreholes at Yelwa Primary School in Dala, Ambassador Sanders expressed satisfaction that the United States Government's partnership with Coca-Cola for community development has produced positive results. She said that the projects would help to alleviate the sufferings of the people, especially the primary school students who hitherto had no access to sanitation facilities in their schools.

WADA is a joint initiative of USAID and The Coca-Cola Company to improve water resources management and expand sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for people in developing countries. WADA is actively contributing to the efforts at finding sustainable solutions to water problems in 17 countries around the world. The project in Kano state is facilitated through a Kano based non-governmental organization, the Women Farmers' Advancement Network (WOFAN); and supports the construction or rehabilitation of 39 boreholes, 30 blocks of modern public latrines, 18 hand washing facilities as well as hygiene and sanitation training for some communities, schools and health centers in six local government areas: Kabo, Nassarawa, Dala, Gabasawa, Kumbotso and Gurun Mallam. The office of the first lady of the state, the State Primary Education Board (SPEB) and the Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) also contributed to the execution of these projects.

The project in Kano will help control and prevent water related diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhea through the provision of a regular source of clean water and washing facilities at schools and health clinics. In order to ensure sustainability, the project incorporates institutional capacity building through the establishment of water, environment and sanitation committees in the various communities; the promotion of successful partnerships among water sector institutions; and the provision of improved access to timely agricultural related information and practices in order to support smallholder farming.



Pupils at Yelwa model primary school fetching water from one of the new boreholes

Other dignitaries at the event were Alhaji Iliyasu Kwankwaso, the commissioner for rural development, Mrs Irene Ubah, Coca-Cola's director of communications, local government chairmen and traditional rulers.

USAID workplace program holds health fair

For three hours on May 16, 2008, USAID/Nigeria invited about eighty staff and other stakeholders to its workplace program health fair. Organized by the USAID workplace team, the event was held to create awareness of health issues that affect our immediate community.

Welcoming participants to the fair, USAID Investing In People coordinator, Mr. Alonzo Wind commended staff for deepening their commitment to health. He encouraged staff to take full advantage of the services and facilities available at the fair.

Declaring the fair open, Ms. Carrie Dailey USAID's executive officer observed that being healthy is a continuous process, of which a key phase is communicating the messages. She charged all participants to spread the word and avail as many people as possible with information received at the fair.



The Reproductive Health stand at the fair

Social marketing implementing partner, Society for Family Health (SFH) displayed family planning and reproductive health products at their stand, while another partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) operated four booths where they provided voluntary HIV/AIDS counseling services to about 30 clients. The National Blood Transfusion Service also held a blood drive where 19 voluntary, non-remunerated donors provided a unit each.

Dr. Sadiq Abdulraman of the department of public health in the Federal Capital Territory gave a presentation on how to manage Tuberculosis.

Food security update

Though the recent rapid increases in food prices globally and locally have caused concern for governments and donors alike, the Government of Nigeria responded immediately to high prices with the release of grains from the national food stores and the elimination of import tariffs and levies on rice until October 31 of this year.

The Government of Nigeria, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, USAID and other donors met several times in April and May to develop a strategy and plan towards addressing high food prices. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources recently

released a comprehensive food security program document to address the short, mid and long term food security issues.

USAID implementing partner Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) hired and trained nine enumerators to collect food security information in six markets for nine months. This will enable FEWSNET to produce weekly updates on food security in Nigeria.

FEWSNET food security projections for Nigeria for the next four months note that: From April to September, food prices are expected to remain high and market supplies limited, but conditions will begin to improve with the onset of the 2008 main rainy season. This season is expected to begin well in May, increasing the likelihood of a good harvest starting in September. This will cause traders to start to release stocks by June or July, relieving some pressure on prices.

USAID facilitates \$11 million guarantee to two banks

The United States Agency for International Development, Bank PHB and Skye Bank recently launched a six-year, \$11 million facility to develop the agricultural commodity value chain in Nigeria. The program will stimulate the agricultural sector by increasing financial access for farmers and agricultural commodity processors, resulting in greater productivity, increased commercialization of agricultural commodities, and value added processing. The program will make \$11million in private sector resources available as credit for small and medium enterprises (SME) along the agricultural commodity value chain in the country.

USAID and its partner banks are intervening to provide financial access to agricultural professionals. Provision of strategic lending into targeted agriculture, agribusiness and supporting industries will help develop rural value-added industries, boosting the confidence of financial institutions to invest and support these sectors. The guarantee will enable the banks to fully address the

most pressing financing needs of borrowers through provision of shorter-term working capital for operational and input costs, as well as longer-term fixed capital financing.

The signing was hosted in Abuja by the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Ms. Robin R. Sanders and USAID Mission Director Ms. Sharon L. Cromer. Other leading players in the agricultural sector and the Nigerian and U. S. Governments were in attendance. Also present were the managing directors of Bank PHB and Skye Bank Messrs Francis Atuche and Akinsola Akinfemiwa respectively.



Ambassador Sanders (right), Francis Atuche (MD, Bank PHB), USAID Mission Director, Sharon Cromer and Skye Bank MD Akinsola Akinfemiwa after the signing

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Sanders said that the credit guarantee complements the Nigerian government's efforts to catalyze the agricultural sector by increasing financial access for farmers and commodity processors, which will result in greater productivity. She also observed that the assistance supports Nigeria's National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS).

In her comments, USAID Mission Director Cromer expressed the hope that financing agriculture will improve livelihoods and help diversify the economy away from reliance on petroleum products to increased non-oil growth in Nigeria; and that other banks will join in this initiative to support agriculture.

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USG supports GON on fiscal responsibility law

The United States of America strongly supports the Nigerian government's

introduction of fiscal responsibility and public procurement laws at the federal level in Nigeria and moves to entrench them at the state level. Mr. Robert Tansey, the United States Embassy economic counselor to Nigeria, who disclosed this at a workshop on Fiscal Responsibility and Procurement Legislation in Calabar, Cross River State recently said the U.S. Government and the American people are proud to be associated with the Federal Government in the introduction of such laws as they will provide well-defined guidance for prudence, transparency, accountability and maximum value for money in government spending.

He commended the government for taking the necessary steps towards preserving its natural assets and wisely investing the proceeds from oil, gas and solid minerals in developing human capital along with physical infrastructure.

"Whether we discuss preservation of the nearby rain forest, the growth of tourism, or ensuring that energy and solid mineral resources are utilized to create a better future for all Nigerians, it is necessary to have clear laws and regulations, transparent and accountable governance, and strong public-private partnerships," Tansey added. According to him, the workshop would help to build on the foundations of good governance which the people of Nigeria are desirous to have.

United States Government support for the workshop comes through the Restructured Economic Framework for Openness and Macroeconomic Stability (REFORMS) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

REFORMS provides technical support and assistance for to the federal and state governments in improving budget formulation, implementation and monitoring while ensuring budget transparency and accountability. Similar workshops were also held in Kaduna and Abuja.

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Teenage orphan becomes role model in Oglewu Benue state

Abel Adole is an 18 year old caregiver and head of household who lives with his three younger brothers and a sister in Oglewu near Otukpo in Benue state, northern Nigeria. When their father died two years ago – his mother had died earlier - Abel became father and mother to his siblings.



Abel with his new motorcycle, thanks to PEPFAR

A student of mathematics and statistics at the local polytechnic, he had to drop out to fend for his family as a commercial motorcyclist ('Okada rider' in local parlance). The family still found it difficult to meet basic needs such as food and clothing, and of course, parental care. After paying the equivalent of \$10 daily to hire a motorcycle, the remaining income of about \$2 a day could hardly provide for the family of five.

However, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through the U.S Agency for International Development's (USAID) implementing partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) came to the aid of this struggling family. CRS' Scaling Up Nigeria (SUN) project - its faith-based response for HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children – provides education, health and counseling support to this young adult and his family. And more importantly, under the watchful care of volunteer Mrs. Christina Oga, Abel returned to school.

Also, the SUN project provided economic support by purchasing a new motorcycle for Abel who now works for himself, supporting his four siblings and another non-related

orphan. In a letter of appreciation, Abel noted that "USAID has given me and my siblings life, hope and a sense of belonging". Abel now serves as a role model to other orphans in his community. Elders and peers refer to Abel as exemplary in the community. For Abel, life now has a new meaning courtesy of the support he got from PEPFAR through USAID. This is one of ten PEPFAR-funded SUN project sites in Nigeria. USAID provides essential services, including access to education, health care, orphans and vulnerable children protection, economic strengthening and psychosocial support to 1313 children in 349 households in Benue state.

PEPFAR supports 65,170 orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria. They receive services in health care, education, psychosocial support, shelter and care, protection, nutrition and economic strengthening.

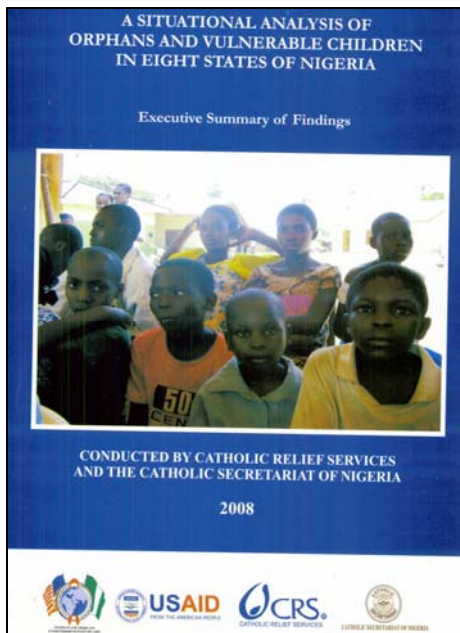
Finding on orphans and vulnerable children published

USAID implementing partner, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) recently held a workshop to present their findings from a survey on orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria. The Orphans and Vulnerable Children Situational Analysis National Level Dissemination workshop brought together a broad range of stakeholders from the Nigerian Government, the U.S. Government and national and international organizations involved in orphans and vulnerable children activities. The workshop provided these stakeholders with a forum to discuss how the results of the situational analysis can translate into programming that ensures such children achieve their full potential, and live lives with dignity.

Through USAID funding, CRS did a situational analysis of orphans and vulnerable children in eight states in Nigeria. This study was done in conjunction with the Federal Ministry for Women's Affairs. Research was conducted by teams from the health departments of ten Catholic dioceses based on a series of surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews with over 5,500

individuals. The assessment provides a set of essential benchmarks for programming for orphans and vulnerable children and illustrates the situation with reference to the education, health and psychological well-being of these vulnerable children.

In a goodwill message, USAID Nigeria Mission Director, Ms. Sharon L. Cromer observed that the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa has resulted in an unprecedented number of orphans placing additional burden on a continent benighted by poverty, overburdened social structures, heavy debt and unemployment. She said that “the study would provide a detailed examination of the situation in Nigeria and ensure that interventions will be more effectively met, so that affected children are able to reach their full potential.”



With the largest population in Africa, Nigeria also has nearly eight million orphans under age 18, which continues to increase annually. Governments, development agencies and other stakeholders have always been challenged by the lack of empirical data to make interventions that adequately address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. The findings of the situational analysis were disseminated at the workshop with a view to assist stakeholders in their interventions.

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USAID supports electoral reform

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in April hosted a one day workshop that aimed at building the capacities of disabled Nigerians as they prepare memoranda and representations to the Electoral Reform Committee (ERC). Titled the Electoral Reform Workshop for People Living with Disabilities, the forum was hosted by USAID implementing partner The International Republic Institute (IRI).

The event was chaired by former Supreme Court judge, Bola Babalakin, and attracted prominent personalities from human rights organizations, political parties, disabled persons organizations and the general public.

Ms. Sharon L. Cromer, USAID Mission Director, in a keynote address reiterated USAID's commitment to the support of people with disabilities, which included direct support to Kano Polio Victims Trust Association (KPVTA); sponsorship of eight disabled Nigerians to the last International Congress on Disability in Washington in 2006; building capacity/creating awareness of disability issues through the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) - an umbrella of disabled persons organizations - and recently establishing a disability desk in USAID as part of efforts to reach out to all stakeholders on disability. She noted that these efforts are made possible through USAID's implementing partners. She pledged U.S. Government and USAID support for people with disabilities to fully participate in the democratization process in Nigeria.

Participants at the event included former chairman of the Federal Court of Appeal, Judge Mustafa Oniyangi; Honorable Abike Dabiri, Honorable Farouk Lawal and Honorable Beni Lar, of the Federal House of Representatives.

People with disabilities belong to the most vulnerable sections of society and, as such, are owed special care and attention by their government. Often this is not the case. They have been greatly ignored in development

efforts that target social and economic justice for all. This exclusion is because government and society view persons with disabilities as an issue of charity, rather than from the human rights and development perspectives. IRI facilitated this workshop to address people with disabilities issues and to submit their concerns to the Electoral Reform Committee (ERC). People with disabilities will also engage the ERC at the zonal hearings with the objective of removing barriers to participation in the overall elections process.

In another development, USAID implementing partner, National Democratic Institute (NDI) recently provided assistance to hold a workshop for members and staff of the Nigerian government appointed Electoral Reform Committee (ERC). The ERC is mandated to consult with stakeholders to recommend the best way to reform Nigeria's elections system. Over a two-day period NDI brought together members of the ERC to deliberate on examples of international best practices in proportional representation, political party representation in election administration and methods for appointing electoral bodies.

In her remarks, USAID Mission Director, Ms. Sharon L. Cromer said that the United States is ready and determined to work alongside with the committee to achieve electoral reform in Nigeria.

This assistance will strengthen the ERC's ability to conduct the six zonal hearings, solicit stakeholder input and draft the final report to President Umaru Yar'Adua.

USG holds export credit workshop

On June 12, 2008, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) joined five other United States Government agencies at a two day workshop held for the Nigerian private and public sector to assist businesses in gaining access to U.S. markets. Hosted by the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Ms. Robin Renee Sanders in collaboration with First Bank of Nigeria and the Bank of Industry, representatives of U.S. government

agencies, Nigerian government officials and members of the private sector focused on the ability of Nigerian businesses to build trade relationships with the United States.



Ambassador Robin Sanders at the workshop

Ambassador Sanders stated that the United States Government is interested in improving and increasing agricultural yields in Nigeria. She made it clear that this initiative is not a one-off event or a search for a quick fix, but an enduring process. "I have had the opportunity to meet a wide range of government and business leaders during my time and one of the things I have heard is that the US needs to further expand existing business partnerships, build new and productive ones and to improve the paradigm between US business-related programs and business and Nigerian businesses", she said.

Members of the Nigerian business community who attended were also exposed to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which provides for the duty free entrance into the U.S. market of some 18,000 products – many of which could be from Nigeria, ranging for textiles to agricultural products. While Nigerian businesses are aware of AGOA, the majority do not fully appreciate the benefits of the duty free access to the U.S. market provided for under this mechanism, or any of the products and services offered by the many U.S. trade and export agencies.

In her presentation on technical partnership assistance, USAID Acting Mission Director, Ms. Latanya Mapp-Frett said that agricultural productivity assistance valued at \$25 million has been made available to Nigeria. Also, USAID through its implementing partner, MARKETS Chemonics has networked about 50,000

farmers and increased their incomes by 300 percent. She informed participants that the agency has created a rice alliance and a sorghum alliance with some commodity corporations. Other projects, she said include a \$20 million partnership to develop cassava, aquaculture and small and medium enterprises.

Each of the U.S. Government Agencies – Export-Import Bank (EX-IM), the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Foreign Commercial Service (FCS) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) - all held consultations and concurrent workshops which provided practical information on process and procedure to participants.

UNILAG inaugurates business advisory council

As a follow-up to the recent commissioning of 362 computers at the University of Lagos, the university has inaugurated its business advisory council. The computers were donated as part of a partnership agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), four private sector companies, the University of Lagos and the Kansas State University, to increase access to technology and strengthen the curricula within the faculties of business administration and computer science. The companies are Microsoft Nigeria, British American tobacco, Ocean Energy Nigeria Limited and Zinox Technologies.

The council was established as a forum for interaction between the business community and the university where experienced private sector personalities will pool their expertise in bringing current business management education to the students. This will strengthen the capacity of the school to produce Nigeria's unmet demand for skilled graduates.

Under the University Strengthening for Improved Employability project, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is partnering with the Kansas State University (KSU) and four private companies to increase access to technology and strengthen curricula at the University of Lagos. The initiative provides access to computers and software, as well as technical experience through internships to students of the faculties of business administration and computer science.

USAID provides training for federal pay officers, accountants and auditors

About a hundred senior staff of the Offices of the Accountant-General and Auditor-General of the Nigerian government recently commenced a month long training on Accounting Transactions Recording and Reporting System (ATRRS).

USAID implementing partner DPK Inc. provided the training to strengthen accounting and auditing procedures, enhance monitoring and communication between the Accountant-General's office in Abuja and all the federal pay offices in Nigeria's 36 states. Apart from training on ATRRS, the beneficiaries were taught basic computer skills while some were trained as trainers to boost in-house training capacity.



Practical training at the ATRRS workshop

The ATRRS was developed by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) based on current accounting practices worldwide. Prior to the deployment of this system, Nigeria had no integrated, centralized accounting system connecting its ministries, agencies and other departments,

making each one use separate, unrelated analogue methods.

Expressing delight at the opening of the training workshop, USAID Mission Director, Ms. Sharon L. Cromer observed that knowledge acquired by the officers will revolutionize the way the Office of the Accountant-General and federal pay offices conduct their business. She also pointed out that the U.S. Government is providing the training in support of President Umaru Yar'Adua's goal of reducing corruption and waste in government establishments.

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Landmark Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey fieldwork begins

Data collection for the 2008 Nigeria Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) has begun. Nigeria's National Population Commission (NPC) and United States Agency for International Development's implementing partner MEASURE DHS will conduct the survey. The National Population Commission has participated in three previous surveys: 1990, 1999 and 2003.

Other stakeholders involved are Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health, the Planned Parenthood Association of Nigeria, Federal Office of Statistics, various universities, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and USAID funded implementing partners.

The data will be collected from a representative sample of approximately 36,000 women aged between 15 and 49 years, and about 12,000 men aged between 15 and 59. Promising to be the most detailed health survey ever done in Nigeria, this ground breaking survey will provide in-depth information at state level on: child survival, family planning, malaria, safe motherhood, orphans and vulnerable children and TB/HIV.

Three reports will be produced: a preliminary report, a final report and a summary. The final report will be published within nine months after the end of fieldwork.

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Karen Kasen's send forth

Karen Kasen, best remembered as the team leader of the dynamic HIV/TB Team of USAID was given a grand send forth by her 'SO14' team mates. It started on Sunday, June 15 at incoming team leader Christina Chappel's home where HIV/TB team members and their families had a sit-out party with Karen.



Karen Kasen, (center) and members of the HIV/AIDS and TB team

Two days later, a soccer match was played in her honor between USG Implementing Partners and the USG team. Score: USG 1, Implementing Partners 0!

The match segued into the mission party held on Wednesday, June 18, which was attended by chiefs of party of implementing partners, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) PEPFAR team and many well wishers from the Government of Nigeria represented by NACA and the director of the HIV/AIDS division of the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Evelyn Ngige.

Dr. Ngige noted that the country and especially the HIV team will miss Karen. Bright Ekweremadu, the managing director Society for Family Health (SFH) extolled Karen's exemplary leadership qualities and noted he learnt from Karen to empower his subordinates - a move that has contributed to the success of SFH as the first indigenous implementing partner in Nigeria to become a direct recipient of US Government funds. Dr Sani Gwarzo of CDC commended Karen for her commitment to build and sustain inter-agency working relationships.

Team members all dressed presented a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed Karen's achievements in her three year

sojourn in Nigeria. Highlights of this presentation included funding increases and program coverage increase from six states to twenty states and the team winning the prestigious 'SPIRIT OF PEPFAR AWARD' in the year 2006.

Acting Mission Director Ms. Latanya Mapp-Frett wished Karen well in her next assignment in South Africa and presented her with a scrap book put together by HIV/AIDS & TB team.

ALBUM

USAID's Maiwada turbaned as Jekadan Gusau



On May 31, 2008, USAID program manager for reproductive health, Abdullahi Maiwada joined eight other grantees of Gusau, Zamfara state, to be turbaned by His Royal Highness, Alhaji Muhammad Kabir Danbaba, Emir of Gusau. With the title Jekadan (Ambassador), Abdullahi now joins an exclusive group of close confidants and advisers to the Emir. The colorful ceremony climaxed with a horse durbar. The previous night, Zamfara state governor Mahmud Aliyu

Shinkafi held a reception dinner in honor of Abdullahi. Picture shows USAID program manager Abdu Garba (left), Jekadan Gusau and Acting Mission Director Latanya Mapp.

Karen's send forth



Karen being introduced to members of the Implementing Partners' team



After trouncing Implementing Partners



And the Power Clap!!!



Staff of the Offices of the Auditor-General and Accountant-General at the USAID funded Accounting Transactions Recording and Reporting System (ATRRS) course held recently.



USAID's Nikhil Jaisinghani (center), Coca-Cola's Irene Ubah (right) with Hajia Salamatu Garba at the cowpea plot of Women Farmers' Advancement Network's demonstration farm in Kano.



The first lady of Kano state, Hajia Amina Shekarau cutting a ribbon to launch USAID funded water projects in the state.

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